

receive an invitation, verbal or written, to make the new acquaintance. Under such circumstances the usual formality of introduction may be made by his second visiting card, which he will send in to announce himself at the time of his call, provided he pays his respects to the new household unaccompanied by a common friend.

A stranger cannot call first upon an old resident, unless a meeting and mutual liking should pave the way to it. Good feeling may prepare the way for either to make the initiatory visit. This etiquette is based upon the supposition that the elder lady belongs to a larger circle of friends, and has more pressing social duties than the younger one. If the parties are equal in age and position, the one whose reception day arrives earliest should receive the first call.

Aged gentlemen or ladies, an eminent personage or clergyman, always receive the first call. It is proper to leave a card for them, even when they are known to be too much engaged either to receive in person or to return calls of ceremony. The card signifies respectful and appreciative remembrance.

*Visiting and Visiting Cards for Ladies.* The visiting card conveys a subtle and unmistakable meaning. It can express perfect breeding. It is the safest herald of an introduction for a stranger. Its text should be fine, and its engraving a plain script.

In every case where there is no title there should be the prefix "Mrs." or "Miss," the name being in clear letters of medium size.

The card etiquette of America is different from that of countries where rank and title are inherited. The same formalities prevail throughout the United States except in Washington, where social customs are modified by the presence of foreign ambassadors.